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**From:** Vendlinski, Tim  
**Sent:** Tue 2/24/2015 5:42:18 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Delta Agency Science Workgroup Update + writings from EPA and USGS on systematic  
strategy to address levees, subsidence reversal, wetlands restoration, water quality, MeHg management,  
and recovery of native fishes  
[Delta Agency Science Team Meeting Notes Feb18.docx](#)  
[2012 RARE-scope of work & fact sheet LICD & MeHg 04 09 14.docx](#)  
[Estuarine Habitat and the Low Salinity zone draft final modeling narrative 03 16 12 links refreshed 02 24 15.docx](#)

Thank you, Taryn.

I'm sending this follow-up message to my colleagues on "Team Jeff" to elaborate further on the observations and recommendations I made for addressing these seemingly disparate issues in a more holistic and systematic fashion.

Please find attached the following two papers:

- (1) a scope of work produced by EPA Region 9 and the USGS Water Science Center on research that links wetlands restoration, levee stability, subsidence reversal, carbon capture, and methylmercury sequestration; and
- (2) an unpublished paper by Bruce Herbold and me that addresses the opportunity/need to place the low salinity zone in the remnant shallows and wetlands of the Estuary to protect fish populations and how protection and restoration of the sunken islands of the West Delta is needed to provide more management options for water supply, fisheries management, etc.

For the sake of the time management and equity during the breakout session on FEB 18<sup>th</sup>, I said my piece and let others have their say.

That's why I didn't object to the suggestion that we drop "subsidence" and "levees" from the priority list.

But as these attached papers integrate, we see subsidence and levees linked with wetlands which are linked with water quality and to habitat for fishes.

And even if the restored islands of the West Delta won't be ready for breaching and return to tidal action for a century, maintaining their "channel geometry" buys time for agencies and NGOs to restore other aspects of the Delta ecosystem without having our careful planning interrupted by the catastrophic collapse of levees, the eastward rush of seawater, and the resulting vast pool of unmanageable open water.

Thanks for considering these ideas as you go into your next meeting on MAR 12<sup>th</sup>. Erin Foresman will be there to represent EPA and our Bay Delta Team.

Best Regards, Tim

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Tim Vendlinski

Senior Policy Advisor;

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**From:** Ravazzini, Taryn@DeltaCouncil [mailto:Taryn.Ravazzini@deltacouncil.ca.gov]

**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2015 5:55 PM

**To:** Messer, Dean@DWR; Nepstad, Michael G SPK (Michael.G.Nepstad@usace.army.mil); rivertmr@sbcglobal.net; Rea, Maria@NOAA; Vendlinski, Tim; Vink, Erik@DPC; Erickson, Gregg@Wildlife; Azimi-Gaylon, Shakoora@SSJDC; kim\_webb@fws.gov; Holland, Matthew@Waterboards; Gunasekara, Amrith@CDFA; Keay, Jeff@usgs; jarcid@usgs.gov; Goodwin, Peter@DeltaCouncil; Fry, Susan@USBR  
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**Subject:** Delta Agency Science Workgroup Update

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for participating in the first of two meetings of the Delta Agency Science Workgroup. We made considerable progress winnowing down the list of potential high-impact science actions to find the key issues on which we can focus our attention at the next meeting.

● **Attached:** Staff went ahead and summarized the flip chart notes for your reference. Please email any comments you may have regarding the attached notes or the meeting itself. We would like to incorporate your feedback into the new working document, as appropriate.

○ NOTE: As a reminder, all issue areas are important and their value is not in question through this process. However, to meet the DPIIC's charge, it was necessary to move past issues that are already well-covered by current agency work or that we know are intended to be addressed in the immediate near term. The group did a commendable job working together to condense the initial draft list with that in mind.

● **Next Steps:**

○ We are currently compiling and synthesizing the information from last Wednesday and developing a new draft working tool to use at the next meeting. It will be emailed to you with further instructions by March 5th. For more information, please refer to the attached meeting notes.

○ Please note that most of the participants from Meeting #1 will remain the same, but there may be a change in a few agency representatives due to scheduling conflicts. Therefore, it would be very helpful if you would make a point to thoroughly brief your appropriate agency colleagues on key messages, our initial workgroup outcomes, and our method of working together. We are

working well as a “team” and should strive to keep that momentum throughout this process.

o Workgroup Meeting #2 - **March 12, 2015 – 10:00am to 3:00pm**, Delta Stewardship Council Offices, 980 Ninth Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Sacramento

Thank you again for your participation and for taking time out of your busy schedule to tackle this challenging request from the DPIIC. Please let me know if you have any questions or feedback.

Sincerely,

Taryn

**Taryn Ravazzini**

*Coordinator*

*Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee*

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